



Public Television for South Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WLRN Channel 17 Presents
“A CALL TO SERVE:
FLORIDA JEWS AND THE U.S. MILITARY”**

A new WLRN original documentary that pays tribute to Florida Jews who served in military campaigns from the Seminole Wars through Afghanistan, some making the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

**Premiering on South Florida’s PBS Station WLRN Channel 17
TUESDAY, MAY 13th AT 9:00 P.M.**

Miami, FL – April 11, 2014 – WLRN Public Television is proud to premiere its new original documentary **“A Call to Serve: Florida Jews and the U.S. Military.”** From the Seminole Wars in the 1830s, through two World Wars, right up to Afghanistan, Jewish Floridians have proudly contributed and served in various campaigns within all branches and ranks of the U.S military.

Interviews will bring to life tales like those of Miami Beach Mayor Mitchell Wolfson, who resigned from office to go fight the Nazis. Wolfson reportedly was part of the decision making process to burn down Hitler's former residence in Munich, Germany and afterward returned home with an engraved setting of the dictator's silverware. Others made their mark in different ways as with famed Miami Beach architect Morris Lapidus who designed the signal search light commonly used by the military.

Then there's the Abramowitz family whose four generations of military service date back to the first World War, or Abraham Myers, West Point graduate and quartermaster for the U.S. Army during the second Seminole War and namesake for the town of Ft. Myers. Another West Point graduate is Paul Lansky, son of the notorious gambler Meyer Lansky, who served in the air force and then went on to work in the Apollo Space Program.

During the Civil War we'll hear how Jews fought and died on both sides and how the first and last Florida Jews to die in the conflict were from the same family. This is also the era when the first Jewish Commodore of the U.S. Navy, Uriah P. Levy rose to prominence.

Jewish pilots shot down in action, POWs, soldiers, medics and chaplains will also tell their stories along with historians and family members of the men and women who helped shape our past and continue to help shape our future.

Supported by archival footage, numerous photos and artifacts that include weapons and letters, this new documentary will give viewers both a Jewish and universal perspective on what it is like to have to make the ultimate sacrifice for a country that has provided so much opportunity for so many.

"WLRN is honored to produce and share stories like *A Call to Serve: Florida Jews and the U.S. Military* with our South Florida community and it makes us proud to build relationships and work with highly talented and dedicated producers like Steve Waxman in order to get these incredible stories out into the community." said John LaBonia, General Manager of WLRN. "WLRN is committed to producing the best original programming for our South Florida audiences. Our mission is to be the best place on television for South Florida stories."

CALENDAR LISTING

WLRN Channel 17 presents

A CALL TO SERVE: FLORIDA JEWS AND THE U.S. MILITARY, A CALL TO SERVE: FLORIDA JEWS AND THE U.S. MILITARY, a new WLRN hour-long documentary that pays tribute to Florida Jews who served in military campaigns from the Seminole Wars through Afghanistan, some making the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Airing on Channel 17:

Tuesday, May 13 at 9 p.m. PREMIERE

Sunday, May 18 at 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 29 at 9 p.m.

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About WLRN-TV

WLRN-TV Channel 17 is a PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) member station licensed to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida. During an average month, Channel 17 reaches over 600,000 TV households in the Miami - Ft. Lauderdale area with a viewing audience in four South Florida counties, from Palm Beach to Key West. WLRN is South Florida's leading PBS Ready to Learn station airing thirteen hours of award-winning children's programming daily. WLRN-TV also presents the best of the PBS nationally recognized series to compliment locally produced content. Our prime time schedule features an eclectic array of arts, science, history and WLRN original documentary specials to address the diverse interests of the South Florida community.